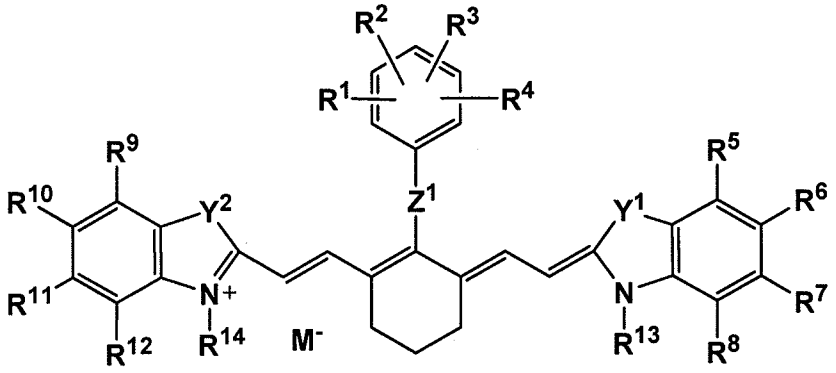
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (I):

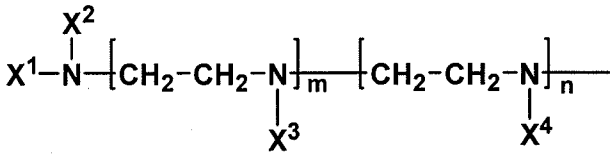
~~[Formula 1]~~



(I)

[wherein R^1 and R^2 independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a group represented by the following formula (A):

~~[Formula 2]~~



(A)

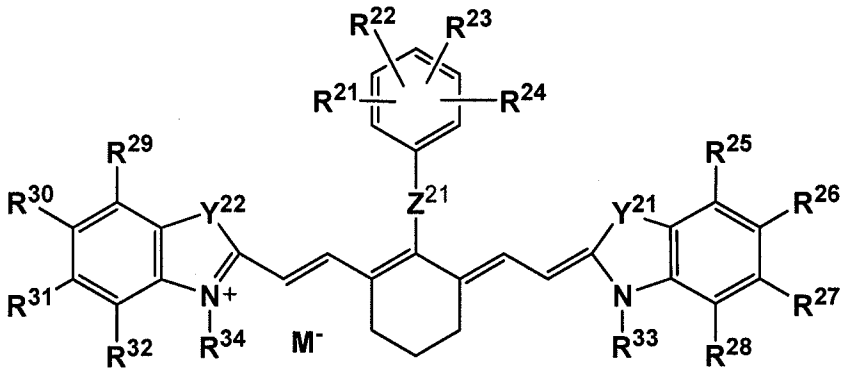
(wherein X^1, X^2, X^3, and X^4 independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a protective group for amino group, and m and n

independently represent 0 or 1~~)~~, provided that R^1 and R^2 do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom; R^3 and R^4 independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, R^{10}, R^{11}, and R^{12} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{13} and R^{14} independently represent a C_{1-18} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z^1 represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or $-N(R^{15})-$ ~~(~~wherein R^{15} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent~~)~~; Y^1 and Y^2 independently represent -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, or $-C(R^{16})(R^{17})$ ~~(~~wherein R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent~~)~~; and M^- represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge~~]~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A fluorescent probe containing the compound represented by the general formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~(~~except for a compound wherein any one or more of X^1, X^2, X^3, and X^4 represent a protective group for an amino group~~)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (IA):

~~[Formula 3]~~



(IA)

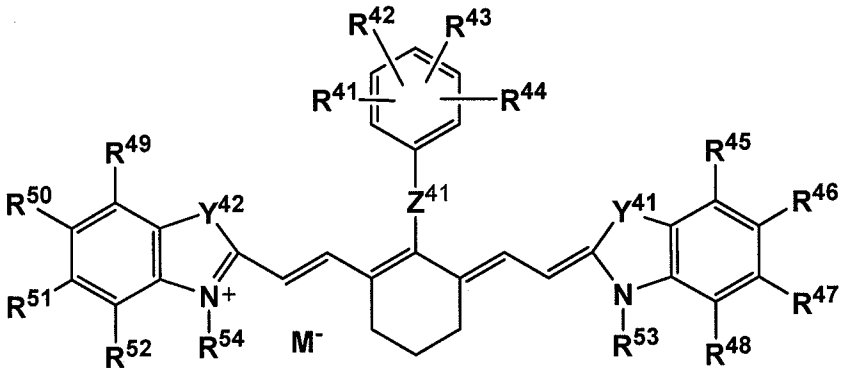
[wherein R^{21} and R^{22} represent amino groups substituting at adjacent positions on the benzene ring, and one of the amino groups may have one alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{23} and R^{24} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R^{25}, R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28}, R^{29}, R^{30}, R^{31}, and R^{32} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{33} and R^{34} independently represent a C_{1-18} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z^{21} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or $-N(R^{35})-$ (wherein R^{35} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); Y^{21} and Y^{22} independently represent -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, or $-C(R^{36})(R^{37})-$ (wherein R^{36} and R^{37} independently represent a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); and M^- represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge].

4. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 3, wherein R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{25}, R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28}, R^{29}, R^{30}, R^{31}, and R^{32} are hydrogen atoms, R^{33} and R^{34} are C_{1-6} alkyl groups substituted with a sulfo group, Z^{21} is an oxygen atom, and Y^{21} and Y^{22} are $-C(CH_3)_2-$.

5. (Currently Amended) A reagent for ~~measurement of~~ measuring nitrogen monoxide, which contains the compound represented by the general formula (IA) according to claim 3.

6. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (IB):

~~[Formula 4]~~



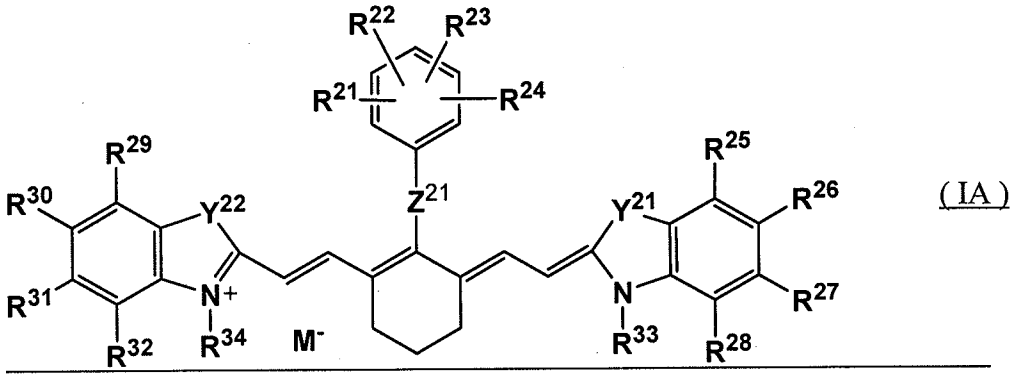
(IB)

~~[~~wherein R^{41} and R^{42} combine together to represent a group represented by -N=N-NR^{58}- which forms a ring at the adjacent positions on the benzene ring ~~(~~wherein R^{58} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent~~)~~, or R^{41} and R^{42} represent a combination of an amino group ~~(~~which may have a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a protective group for an amino group~~)~~ and a nitro group substituting at adjacent positions on the benzene ring; R^{43} and R^{44} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R^{45}, R^{46}, R^{47}, R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51}, and R^{52} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen

atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{53} and R^{54} independently represent a C_{1-18} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z^{41} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or -N(R^{55})- (wherein R^{55} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); Y^{41} and Y^{42} independently represent -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, or -C(R^{56})(R^{57})- (wherein R^{56} and R^{57} independently represent a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); and M^- represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge].

7. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 6, wherein R^{43}, R^{44}, R^{45}, R^{46}, R^{47}, R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51}, and R^{52} are hydrogen atoms, R^{53} and R^{54} are C_{1-6} alkyl groups substituted with a sulfo group, Z^{41} is an oxygen atom, and Y^{41} and Y^{42} are -$C(CH_3)_2$-.

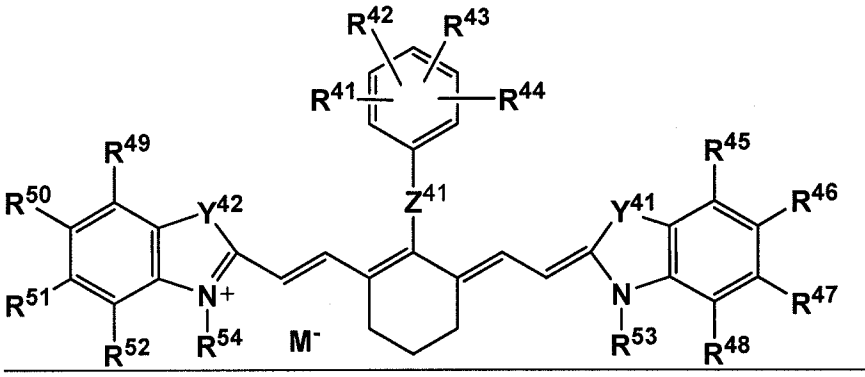
8. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring nitrogen monoxide, which comprises (a) ~~the step of~~ reacting the compound represented by the general formula (IA) ~~according to claim 3~~ with nitrogen monoxide;



(IA)

wherein R^{21} and R^{22} represent amino groups substituting at adjacent positions on the

benzene ring, and one of the amino groups may have one alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{23} and R^{24} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R^{25}, R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28}, R^{29}, R^{30}, R^{31}, and R^{32} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{33} and R^{34} independently represent a C_{1-18} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z^{21} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or $-N(R^{35})-$, wherein R^{35} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Y^{21} and Y^{22} independently represent $-C(=O)-$, $-C(=S)-$, or $-C(R^{36})(R^{37})-$, wherein R^{36} and R^{37} independently represent a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; and M^- represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge; and (b) ~~the step of~~ detecting the compound of the general formula (IB)



(IB)

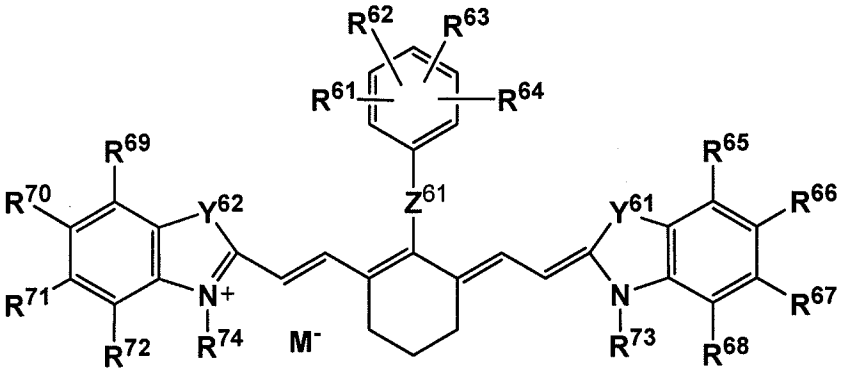
wherein R^{41} and R^{42} combine together to represent a group represented by $-N=N-NR^{58}-$ which forms a ring at the adjacent positions on the benzene ring, wherein R^{58} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or R^{41} and R^{42} represent a combination of an amino group which may have a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a protective group for an amino group; and a nitro group

substituting at adjacent positions on the benzene ring; R^{43} and R^{44} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R^{45}, R^{46}, R^{47}, R^{48}, R^{49}, R^{50}, R^{51}, and R^{52} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{53} and R^{54} independently represent a C_{1-18} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Z^{41} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or $-N(R^{55})-$, wherein R^{55} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; Y^{41} and Y^{42} independently represent -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, or $-C(R^{56})(R^{57})-$, wherein R^{56} and R^{57} independently represent a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; and M^- represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge;

~~according to claim 6~~ [wherein R^{41} and R^{42} combine together to represent a group represented by $-N=N-NR^{58}-$ which forms a ring at the adjacent positions on the benzene ring (wherein R^{58} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent)] produced in ~~the step~~ (a).

9. (Currently Amended) A compound represented by the following general formula (IC):

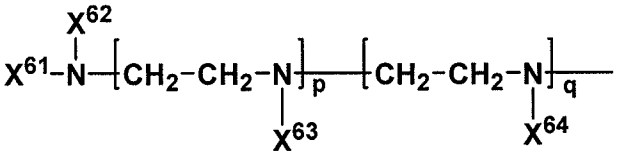
~~[Formula 5]~~



(IC)

[wherein R^{61} and R^{62} independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a group represented by the following formula (B):

~~[Formula 6]~~



(B)

(wherein X^{61}, X^{62}, X^{63}, and X^{64} independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a protective group for amino group, and p and q independently represent 0 or 1), provided that R^{61} and R^{62} do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom, and when R^{61} and R^{62} simultaneously represent a group represented by the formula (B), in at least one of the groups represented by the formula (B), either p or q, or both represent 1; R^{63} and R^{64} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent, or a C_{1-6} alkoxy group which may have a substituent; R^{65}, R^{66}, R^{67}, R^{68}, R^{69}, R^{70}, R^{71}, and R^{72} independently represent a hydrogen atom, a sulfo group, a phospho group, a halogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent; R^{73} and R^{74} independently represent a C_{1-18} alkyl group

which may have a substituent; Z^{61} represents an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, or -N(R^{75})- (wherein R^{75} represents a hydrogen atom, or a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); Y^{61} and Y^{62} independently represent -C(=O)-, -C(=S)-, or -C(R^{76})(R^{77})- (wherein R^{76} and R^{77} independently represent a C_{1-6} alkyl group which may have a substituent); and M^- represents a counter ion in a number required for neutralizing the charge].

10. (Currently Amended) A fluorescent probe for zinc containing the compound represented by the general formula (IC) according to claim 9 (except for a compound wherein any one or more of X^{61}, X^{62}, X^{63}, and X^{64} are protective group for amino group).

11. (Currently Amended) A zinc complex formed from the compound represented by the general formula (IC) according to claim 9 (except for a compound wherein any one or more of X^{61}, X^{62}, X^{63}, and X^{64} are protective group for amino group), and a zinc ion.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring zinc ions, which comprises (a) ~~the step of~~ reacting the compound represented by the ~~aforementioned~~ general formula (IC) according to claim 9 (except for a compound wherein any one or more of X^{61}, X^{62}, X^{63}, and X^{64} are protective group for amino group) with a zinc ion, and (b) ~~the step of~~ measuring fluorescence intensity of a zinc complex produced in ~~the step~~ (a).